

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PC-04 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

IO-14 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00 A-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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O P 151445Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7526

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, NG

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON COUP LEADERS

REF: NIAMEY 1068

1. LT. COLONEL KOUNTCHE SEYNI WAS BORN NEAR FILINGUE JULY 1, 1931. JOINING THE FRENCH ARMY IN 1951, HE SERVED IN VIETNAM AND FRANCE AS WELL AS NIGER AND BY 1960 HAD OBTAINED THE RANK OF SECOND LIEUTENANT. AFTER INDEPENDENCE HE TRANSFERRED TO THE NIGERIEN ARMY. IN AUGUST 1966 HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF AND HAS BEEN CHIEF OF STAFF SINCE JULY 1973. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK IN JANUARY 1974. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE OFFICERS IN THE NIGERIAN ARMY. KOUNTCHE IS QUIET, RESERVED AND NOT OUTWARDLY FRIENDLY. HIS CURRENT POLITICAL VIEWS ARE NOT CLEAR ALTHOUGH OLD REPORTS SPEAK OF HIS GENERALLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. HE IS DJERMA AND A PRACTICING MUSLIM. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVERAL CHILDREN. KOUNTCHE VISITED THE UNITED STATES APRIL-MAY 1968 ON ORIENTATION TOUR.

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2. MAJOR SANI SOUNA SIDDO WAS BORN IN MARADI ABOUT

1931. SANI SERVED IN THE FRENCH ARMY IN BOTH VIETNAM AND ALGERIA WHERE HE ATTAINED RANK OF SERGEANT. IN 1961 HE TRANSFERRED TO THE NIGERIEN ARMY AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT. HE WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT IN 1963 AND APOOINTED DIORI'S PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY CHIEF OF CABINET AND AIDE. FOLLOWING THE UNSUCCESSFUL MUTINY LED BY CAPT. DIALLO IN 1963, HE WAS ALSO PLACED IN CHARGE OF NEWLY FOUNDED PRESIDENTIAL GUARD. IN JANUARY 1973 HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR AND MADE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF IN JULY 1973. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ENERGETIC, DECISIVE AND HIGHLY INTELLIGENT. SANI WAS RAISED AS A HAUSA SINCE HIS FATHER WAS HAUSA, ALTHOUGH HIS MOTHER IS DJERMA.
BUCHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAMEY01069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740086-0784
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740442/aaaablun.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NIAMEY 1068
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIO DATA ON COUP LEADERS
TAGS: PINR, PINS, NG, (SEYNI, KOUNTCHE), (SIDDO, SANI SOUNA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005